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A/RES/52/208
27 February 1998

Fifty-second session
Agenda item 96 (*a*)

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/52/627)*]

52/208. Industrial development cooperation: Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries,[1] the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade[2] and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s,[3]

Taking note of the declaration adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of countries members of the Group of 77 at their twenty-first annual meeting, held in New York on 26 September 1997,[4] the communiqué adopted in New York on 25 September 1997 at the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of Non-Aligned Countries to the fifty-second session of the General Assembly[5] and the Declaration on Africa's Industrialization, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity at its thirty-third ordinary session, held at Harare from 2 to 4 June 1997,[6] concerning the importance of industrial development for developing countries, especially those in Africa, and the essential role of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in this regard,

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[1] Resolution S-18/3, annex.

[2] Resolution 45/199, annex.

[3] Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

[4] A/52/460, annex.

[5] A/52/447-S/1997/775, annex; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-second Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1997*, document S/1997/775.

[6] A/52/465, annex II, document AHG/Decl.4 (XXXIII).

Reaffirming its resolution 50/94 of 20 December 1995 on the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, in which it requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the resolution, and its resolution 51/170 of 16 December 1996,

Recognizing the importance of industrialization as a key element in promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable development in Africa, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences, as well as its role in facilitating efforts for the eradication of poverty, the integration of women in the development process and the creation of productive employment,

Recognizing also the increasing role of the business community, including the private sector, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, in enhancing the dynamic process of the development of the industrial sector,

Taking note of the Plan of Action for the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Industry at its thirteenth meeting, held at Accra in May 1997,[7]

Emphasizing the continuing need for the mobilization of adequate resources through domestic and international initiatives for the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade, including a favourable climate for foreign direct investment, private sector development, small and medium-sized enterprises and enhanced market access, and recognizing the need for African countries to use both human and financial resources more effectively in the process of industrialization,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the programme for the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1993-2002);[8]

2. *Calls upon* all Member States to support the implementation of the programme for the Second Decade and the Plan of Action for the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization, taking into account the results of the mid-term review of the Second Decade;

3. *Invites* donor countries, United Nations funds and programmes, all relevant United Nations organizations and the private sector to participate in a meeting of donors to be organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the United Nations Development Programme and the Organization of African Unity, under the leadership of the African Development Bank and in cooperation with the World Bank;

4. *Appeals* to the international community and the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Economic Commission for Africa, in accordance with their agreed mandates, work programmes and priorities, to support the programmes of the African countries to intensify and expand industrial cooperation among themselves;

5. *Urges* African Member States to integrate the objectives of the Alliance for Africa's Industrialization into their national plans and in the establishment of institutional capacity for the formulation of mechanisms to follow up and monitor programmes and projects, including, where appropriate, the involvement of the private sector;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Economic Commission for Africa and other relevant United Nations organizations, in accordance with their agreed mandates, work programmes and priorities, to work closely with Governments and the private sector in Africa at the national, regional and international levels to foster industrial production and development;

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[7] See A/52/480, sect. IV.C.

[8] A/52/480.

7. *Calls upon* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Economic Commission for Africa, in accordance with their agreed mandates, work programmes and priorities, to strengthen their coordination with the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations agencies and donors, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the programme and goals of the Second Decade;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/52/L.70)*]

52/209. Business and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 47/171 of 22 December 1992 entitled "Privatization in the context of economic restructuring, economic growth and sustainable development", 48/180 of 21 December 1993 entitled "Entrepreneurship and privatization for economic growth and sustainable development" and 50/106 of 20 December 1995 entitled "Business and development", as well as the Agenda for Development,[1]

Welcoming the fact that many countries continue to attach major importance to the privatization of enterprises, demonopolization and administrative deregulation in the context of their economic restructuring policies, as a means to increase efficiency, economic growth and sustainable development,

Recognizing the importance of the market and the private sector for the efficient functioning of economies in various stages of development,

Recognizing the sovereign right of each State to decide on the development of its private and public sectors, taking into account the comparative advantages of each sector, bearing in mind the economic, social and cultural diversity in the world,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Entrepreneurship and privatization for economic growth and sustainable development";[2]

2. *Underlines* the positive role of the private sector in supporting economic growth and development as well as in the mobilization of resources;

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[1] Resolution 51/240, annex.

[2] A/52/428.

3. *Emphasizes* the role of the private sector in each country, including international investors, to contribute positively to the implementation of national macroeconomic policies and macroeconomic stabilization programmes;

4. *Recognizes* that business and industry, including transnational corporations, play a crucial role in the social and economic development of a country, that a stable policy regime enables and encourages business and industry to operate responsibly and efficiently and to implement longer-term policies and that the activities of business and industry are the primary contributors to increasing prosperity, which is a major goal of the development process;

5. *Expresses the conviction* that a stable and transparent environment for commercial transactions in all countries is essential for the mobilization of investment, finance, technology, skills and other important resources across national borders, in order to promote growth and development, and recognizes in this context that effective efforts at all levels to combat corruption and bribery are essential elements of an improved international business environment;

6. *Recognizes* the important role of Governments in creating, through transparent and participatory processes, an enabling environment supportive of entrepreneurship and facilitative of privatization, in particular in establishing the judicial, executive and legislative frameworks necessary for a market-based exchange of goods and services and for good management;

7. *Emphasizes* the importance of a supportive international economic environment, including investment and trade, for the promotion of entrepreneurship and privatization;

8. *Recognizes* the need to increase private sector involvement in the provision of infrastructure services, *inter alia*, through joint ventures between public and private entities, particularly in countries with economies in transition, while protecting essential services and safeguarding the environment;

9. *Recognizes* that in many countries the informal sector accounts for a significant part of all economic activity and is a particularly important source of income for women and that the progressive integration of the informal sector should be encouraged;

10. *Stresses* the importance of micro-credit to people living in poverty, allowing them to establish micro-enterprises, which in turn generate self-employment and contribute to achieving empowerment, particularly of women, and calls for the strengthening of institutions supportive of micro-financing, in particular, micro-credit;

11. *Values* the promotion of entrepreneurship, including through the informal sector and micro-enterprises, in the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and industries by various actors throughout civil society and of privatization, demonopolization and the simplification of administrative procedures;

12. *Recognizes* the important role of cooperatives in the development and promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises;

13. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue to provide a forum for intergovernmental discussions, with the participation of representatives from the private sector, concerning issues related to privatization, enterprise development and international flows of investment, and welcomes the efforts by the Secretary-General of the Conference to build a lasting partnership for development with non-governmental actors, including through the "Partners for Development" initiative to be held at Lyon, France, in 1998;

14. *Invites* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the other relevant United Nations bodies to further strengthen their activities, in particular for Africa and the least developed countries,

in promoting the development of entrepreneurship, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises, and calls upon the international community to lend its support to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in this regard;

15. *Stresses* that the outsourcing of work from transnational corporations to small and medium-sized enterprises supports the development of entrepreneurship and privatization in developing countries;

16. *Calls upon* the United Nations funds and programmes, in accordance with their mandates, to continue to strengthen support to the promotion of entrepreneurship and, in their work in implementing the present resolution, to give due consideration to the role of the private sector in development, taking into account the priorities set by each country, while ensuring a gender perspective, and, in this connection, states that there is a need to assist in particular the Governments of developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, in strengthening their capacity to encourage wider participation of the private sector;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Business and development", and requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies, to prepare a report which includes analytical work on the implementation of the present resolution for submission to the General Assembly at that session.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/52/625)]

52/210. Report of the Committee for Development Planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/206 of 20 December 1991 on the report of the Committee for Development Planning and criteria for identifying the least developed countries,

Taking note of subparagraph (*a*) of Economic and Social Council decision 1997/223 of 18 July 1997, by which the Council endorsed the recommendation of the Committee for Development Planning that Vanuatu be graduated from the list of least developed countries,

Taking note also of subparagraph (*b*) of Economic and Social Council decision 1997/223,

Taking note further of the content of the letter of the Prime Minister of Vanuatu[1] advancing reasons to support his position that the review of the status of Vanuatu should be deferred until the year 2000,

Taking note of the decision of the Committee for Development Planning, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 51/183 of 16 December 1996, to examine,[2] as part of its work programme for 1997-1998, the report to be prepared by the Secretary-General on the vulnerability index for small island developing States and to consider the usefulness of such an index as a criterion for the designation of least developed countries in its examination of issues related to improvements to the criteria and methodology for the designation of least developed countries,[3]

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[1] A/C.2/52/5, annex, appendix.

[2] Without prejudice to the review by the Economic and Social Council of its subsidiary bodies, as initiated in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, and bearing in mind other relevant Assembly resolutions.

[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 15* (E/1997/35), para. 241 (*c*).

Taking into account statements made by several delegations during the debate on the report of the Economic and Social Council at the meetings of the Second Committee on 11 November 1997,[4]

1. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 4 and 5 of its resolution 46/206 relating to transitional arrangements;

2. *Welcomes* the convening in New York from 17 to 19 December 1997 of Working Group III of the Committee for Development Planning to review the results of the technical work and the outcome of the expert group meeting concerning the vulnerability index, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/183;

3. *Decides* to postpone its consideration of subparagraph (*a*) of Economic and Social Council decision 1997/223, in consideration of the views and recommendations to be submitted by the Committee for Development Planning to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 51/183, on the usefulness of the vulnerability index as a criterion for the designation of least developed countries and without prejudice to the full development and examination of the vulnerability index and its potential application in assessing the graduation of Vanuatu, a small island developing State, from the list of least developed countries, and to take a decision accordingly.

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[4] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Second Committee*, 36th and 37th meetings (A/C.2/52/SR.36 and 37), and corrigendum.